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JUST AFTER THE BROADCAST DESCRIBING the historic conference at Casablanca I received the following from Professor E. D. Schonberger of the University:

I am just now wondering, in regard to the announcement last night, whether the same thing occurred to others that occurred to me. The news sums itself in my mind in "GERMANIA DELENDA EST." And to think that that historic decision should have been reached within cannon shot, so to speak, of the site of old Carthage!

This seems the more significant to me, because my father, before and after the first World war, impressed it upon us that there could be no permanent peace in Europe so long as Germany was permitted to pamper her race superiority delusion. He had no sympathy with her cry for "lebensraum." He looked upon that as a whine of wounded pride. He argued that if Germany had been temperamentally fitted for it, she might have had as large a colonial empire as any other nation, but that her genius lay in another field where no other nation could touch her. But that has not been enough for her. Perhaps henceforth it will be.

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THERE IS SOMETHING STRIKINGLY suggestive in the fact that such weighty decisions are being made so near the site of ancient Carthage, whose fate was forecast in that declaration which Cato appended to every speech, "Carthage must be destroyed." And the United Nations are equally determined now that "Germany must be destroyed," not the Germany that has contributed so much to the world's advancement, but that Germany which seeks to destroy everything worth while that mankind has achieved.

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A LOT OF PEOPLE WILL AGREE with Mr. Jeffers' statement that there are too many experts in Washington as well as too many experts in other places.

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WHEN GENERAL MONTGOMERY began his pursuit of Rommel last fall he promised friends that he would be in Tripoli on January 22. He didn't make it. He was five hours late, arriving early on January 23. Now the question is whether he should be court martialed for not keeping on schedule or be given time-and-a-half pay for five hours overtime.

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WHEN THE SONG "WHEN IRISH Eyes Are Smiling" is sung not many who sing it think of its origin. But the song has now got into court. It was composed many years ago by the late Chauncey Olcott, famous Irish tenor, in collaboration with George Graff and Ernest R. Ball. The three men shared in copyright rights, but transfers made by some of them have led to uncertainty about the right of some of them, or their heirs, to royalties. The courts are asked to straighten out the tangle, and it is said that certain principles of law are involved which have never yet been decided.

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SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN MEAS-

uring distance on a map, or a globe, finds that Fairbanks, Alaska, instead of being away out of the world, as we had supposed, is one of the most central places on the planet. From Fairbanks it is but 4220 miles to London, for example, 5350 miles to Manila, and 3820 miles to Leningrad. It appears that when things are straightened out and one wants to go anywhere the best way will be to go first to Fairbanks and then start from there.

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FOR THE OFFICIAL WHO THINKS it necessary to stand always on his dignity may get a useful hint from the behavior of President Wilson, who could be as dignified as anybody when he chose. Driving one day with a member of his staff he asked "Did you see what that little boy did as we passed him?" The official hadn't, and said so. "He made a face at me," said Wilson. The official was horrified at something which seemed dangerously like high treason. "Did you notice what I did?" asked the president. Again the official hadn't noticed. "I made a face right back at him," said the president. Anyone who has read that before may skip it.

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IF YOU HAVE A RELATIVE, OR A friend, serving on a sea-going craft, never ask him anything about his "boat." A few of the smaller craft are called boats, but it's always safer to lean over backward and call it a ship. To call a ship a boat would be like calling an admiral a lieutenant. He might not like it.

A LETTER RECENTLY RECEIVED by Mrs. H. C. Rowland from a sister who is a missionary in India gives interesting descriptions of climatic and scenic features at the base of the Himalayas, together with observations on the disturbed political conditions in that area as of last fall, when the letter was written. The writer and her husband, the Rev. J. W. Roberts, are located in Sylhet, Assam, the province just north of Burma, on the air route to China over which American fliers are transporting supplies. Some excerpts from the letter follow:

* * *

"TRANSPORT AND EVERYTHING is affected by the war. We left Sylhet in August and spent a month in our "Rest House" in Shillong. That was taken over as a nurses' hostel for a military hospital near by, so we have come to stay in Cherrapunji—the wettest place in the world. Fortunately the rains are ending and we can expect a nice October, but we had five days of good Cherrapunji rain. One day we had 25 inches, 8 inches another, and 9 another. We get mists and showers but no repetition of the five days big effort." (Cherrapunji has over 600 inches of rainfall annually.)

"This morning we had a lovely outing to the edge of the hills overlooking the vast expanse of the Plains. I wish I could describe the scenery to you; there is a mass of rock at the edge of the plateau over which a huge waterfall pours after each rain, but today it only had water falling over in small quantities in five or six clefts. The ravine just there is rather terrifying, especially if it has been filled with mist which makes it invisible, and suddenly the mist lifts to permit you to look down some two or three thousand feet." (This refers to the Khassia hills.)

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"EXCEPT THAT AIRPLANES PASS over daily we would not know there was a war on. We have seen some of our own countrymen with the troops, and we have also seen some from your great

country. I suppose you will be wanting to know something about the political situation here, but it is really such a hodge-podge that I don't feel qualified to pass any remarks about it. There has not been much bother in Sylhet. (A town of 300,000 population.) The disturbers of the peace tried to burn records in various government offices and in the post office, but didn't do much harm. Troops were quickly on the scene to keep order. Of course, they have done a lot of mischief in various places up and down the country, but nothing like they hoped to do. Transportation was affected for a few days and supplies were not easy to get, but things are improving again. It is a pity that repression has been necessary instead of each side being willing to give way a little in order to come to some understanding. It will take some time for the bad feeling there is about to change to mutual trust."

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SOME TIME LAST YEAR REFERENCE was made in this column to the relationship between the families of Abraham Lincoln and of Fay Loveridge, of Latah, Washington. In a letter to a Grand Forks friend, Mrs. Josephine Bales, Mr. Loveridge wrote:

"My grandfather was orphaned when eight years old, and Abe's folks took him and kept him for about a year until they could find some of his relatives. He and Abe were about the same age. Abe's mother, Nancy Hanks, and my grandfather Robbins were second cousins."

* * *

INFORMATION COMES THAT MRS. Bales, the recipient of that letter, and Mr. Loveridge have been married. Mrs. Bales will be remembered as Mrs. D. O. Bales, of the Petersburg community in Nelson county.

* * *

A YEAR AGO HITLER PROMISED that 1942 would be a year of victory. Well, it has been, but chiefly for the other fellow.

SOME TIME LAST YEAR THE ATTORNEY general of Illinois attempted the removal of Judge Sveinbjorn Johnson from the position of university counsel for the University of Illinois at Urbana. The attorney general charged, among other things, that Judge Johnson had injected partisan politics into the work of his office and demanded that the university board of trustees accept as counsel the man whom he named for that position, saying:

Let's get this straight . . . I am the attorney general . . . My office will say who shall be counsel for the university."

* * *

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, CONSISTING of both Republicans and Democrats, denied the charges made by the attorney general, said that Judge Johnson's administration of the duties of his position had been entirely satisfactory, and insisted that the board, and not the attorney general had jurisdiction over the appointment of its counsel. It unanimously reappointed Judge Johnson and authorized him to take steps in the courts to determine whether the board or the attorney general had the power to appoint counsel.

* * *

THE CASE WAS CARRIED THROUGH the courts, and on Jan. 21 of this year the Illinois supreme court, consisting of five Republicans and two Democrats rendered an unanimous opinion sustaining the contention of the board that it alone has the right to name its counsel. The decision says: "The attorney general has not the power, the duty or the right to represent the university or the trustees."

* * *

JUDGE JOHNSON WILL BE REMEMBERED as a graduate of the University of North Dakota, a member of its law faculty, attorney general of the state and a member of the state supreme court, which position he resigned to accept appointment to his present position with the University of Illinois. The effort to remove him last year was recognized as wholly political, made for the purpose of enabling the attorney general to install a political favorite in office. While the court decision is necessarily confined to the legal aspects of the case, the unanimous

action of the board is conclusive evidence of its confidence in Judge Johnson and complete approval of the manner in which he has performed his duties. Judge Johnson has many friends in North Dakota who will be glad to know that the baseless attack made on him has been thwarted.

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UNTIL THIS WAR BEGAN GREAT Britain produced only about 30 per cent of its food. Last year its food production was increased to more than 60 per cent of its requirements. That does not mean that the country produced twice as much of everything that it had been accustomed to consume. A part of the change came about through changes in the food practices of the nation. Importation of some things, desirable, but not necessary, was severely curtailed or suspended altogether and for these were substituted other foods easier to import or to produce. Nevertheless, there was a vast increase in food production.

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MUCH OF THAT INCREASE WAS IN the more intensive use of land. Pastures, many thousands of acres in extent, which had not been disturbed for hundreds of years were plowed up and sown to grain. Public parks were turned into gardens, as were the ornamental grounds of ancient estates. Householders were urged wherever possible to raise pigs and chickens, as these could be fed for large part on scraps from family tables and would yield quick returns. Assistance was given by the government in instruction and supervision over all these activities, with which many of the people were unfamiliar. As a result of all this the people are nutritiously, though not luxuriously fed and thousands of tons of shipping space have been saved for the transportation of war material.

DIETITIANS IN AND OUT OF THE army are puzzling over the estimate that comes from the camp at San Angelo, Texas, of the quantity of food that is consumed per soldier per month. The report that comes from San Angelo is that the soldier requires 900 pounds of victuals during his twelve weeks training. That figures out to close to 11 pounds per day. While army authorities say that it is possible for some men to consume food at that rate, not many can do it, and the quantity is just about double the regular consumption in the army.

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IT IS CONCEDED THAT THE AMERICAN army is the best-fed army in the world, but its consumption is away below that listed for the San Angelo camp. Average consumption in the army as reported from several bases runs from 4.5 to 5.5 pounds per day. It is possible that different bases of calculation are used in different outfits, and that wastage is greater in some areas than in others. A study made by dietitians of the army menus at Randolph field, Texas, puts the average daily consumption of food by the members of the air corps at about six pounds and the men are said to gain from ten to twenty pounds after assignment there. Question: Do air men burn up more food while flying than do infantrymen who carry their own weight on foot?

* * *

THE EASTERN SEABOARD IS DIGGING out from under one of its greatest snowfalls. From 5 to 8 inches of snow fell, mostly in the form of small, hard pellets like sand. New York city traffic was demoralized and work in factories was almost suspended because workers were unable to get to and from work. A news photograph shows a scene on Fifth avenue with workmen shoveling snow on the almost deserted street, and another shows pedestrians crossing a street up to their ankles in slush. That New York slush is something to remember. Falling snowflakes collect dust and soot from the air, and when the snow melts the streets are covered with a substance resembling thin molasses.

* * *

WHILE HERE WE HAVE HAD A long spell of cold weather, the weather man has really been kind to us. It is not long since sections of New England and adjoining areas were treated to the worst snow storm on record. A little later Washington and Oregon had a similar experience. Now the east coast is buried again. Here we have had only a moderate quantity of snow and there has been scarcely any drifting.

* * *

IF THE GROUNDHOG CAME OUT early on Tuesday morning he didn't see his shadow. If he remained out for a few hours he did see it. That means, if anybody wants to know, that during the next

six weeks our weather will be mixed. We shall have some cold weather and some not quite so cold. Which is about what we should have had had there been no groundhog. And maybe there wasn't.

* * *

IT HAS BEEN CHARGED, AND THE Japs deny it, that they—the Japs—used poison gas in an engagement in China a week or two ago. The story is that large quantities of gas were discharged from the Japanese side, but before it could have any effect on the Chinese the wind changed and drove it back upon those who had released it. There has been no general use of gas in this war, although a few isolated cases have been reported. Both the United States and Great Britain have large quantities of gas stored up ready for use, and they have served notice that they will serve it up in large lots to their enemies if the latter use it. This threat may have had a deterrent effect, and there seems to be a strong belief that gas is not as effective in warfare as it was supposed to be.

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EASTERN GEORGIA HAS MOVED itself into the central time zone by act of the state legislature. Heretofore, the state has been half in the eastern and half in the western zone, which made for confusion. Now the confusion threatens to be greater than ever, for while local time in the east has been shifted back an hour, the railroads and most of the larger industries will operate on eastern war time.

MRS. H. J. MURDOCK OF ROCK Lake writes:

"We read your column in the Herald almost every day with considerable interest and would like to add to your red bird (cardinal) article of January 21. My daughter and I went to St. Louis on December 22 to spend Christmas with my son in the army and stopped at Fari-bault, Minnesota, to visit my sister, Mrs. A. M. Brand, who said three red birds live in their trees all winter. We saw them there, too, and of course from there on south we saw quite a number. The reason that we took so much interest in this bird is that we have had a cardinal in a cage for more than seven years and he sings beautifully every day, sometimes putting on the airs of an opera star, swaying from side to side as he sings. Then his crest stands up and he listens mightily for the slightest appreciation and applause."

* * *

I AM SURE SUCH A BIRD MUST BE a treasure, and this one seems to enjoy thoroughly his life in captivity. This is not true of all wild birds that are caged. In many cases they will pine and die, though the greatest care is taken to make them comfortable and happy. On the other hand, some birds, among them the canary, appear to have become so completely domesticated they are lost if set at liberty. Occasionally a canary escapes from its cage and starts out on its own. Almost invariably, however, it returns either to its own home or to some neighbor's. Birds, like people, seem to find it difficult to make use of liberty after they have become accustomed to its absence.

* * *

SYMPATHY IS OFTEN WASTED ON animals in a zoo. Doubtless most of them would take to the open if they could get out, but many of them have never known freedom, having been born in captivity, and their lives are passed in complete contentment. Do those captured as adults long for the freedom that they once enjoyed? Who knows? The mentality of the beasts of the field differs from that of human beings, a fact which is illustrated by an old story of a cow and her calf.

* * *

THE CALF HAD BEEN BUTCHERED and the mother was inconsolable. The calf's hide had been stuffed with hay so that it might be mounted, and in order to appease the cow the stuffed hide was placed before her. She licked it joyfully, and kept on licking until she broke the stitches which had held it together. Then she calmly ate the hay, and was perfectly happy.

A FRIEND IN WHOSE ACCURACY in matters of history I have the greatest confidence points out what he says is an error in my story about the boy on the sidewalk and President Wilson making faces at each other. He says that the boy thumbed his nose at the president and the president returned the gesture. It is important to get these things right.

* * *

I WONDER HOW MANY PRESIDENTS would have responded in like manner to a gesture of that kind. Lincoln might have done so, but probably not any of his successors before the turn of the century. There may be some doubt about Theodore Roosevelt, but my guess

is that he would have given the offending youngster a look of stern disapproval. In strict privacy, Theodore could and did unbend, but in public he was dignified and formal. His successor, Taft, enjoyed a joke on himself or anyone else and he often shocked his intimates by his informality. Harding was good natured and easy going, and he might or might not have returned the boy's gesture in kind. Coolidge had a grim sort of humor, but one would as soon expect the sphinx to thumb its nose. And Hoover—surely no one could suspect him of a trick like that. One would as soon expect the father of his country to dance a Highland fling. As to the present chief magistrate, my guess is that he resembles his distinguished cousin in being ready to play jokes on others, but being a little touchy about having them played on him.

STATISTICIANS TELL US THAT the aggregate income of the United States for 1942 was approximately 100 billion dollars, which is about double what it was a few years ago. That means that there is a lot more money in the country with which to buy goods and to pay for services. War conditions have greatly restricted the output of consumers' goods. Manufacturers of radios, washing machines, refrigerators, pianos and a multitude of other things are now making implements of war. Supplies of goods of which manufacture has been suspended consist of stocks in the hands of dealers, and those stocks are rapidly being depleted. When they are gone no more of such goods can be obtained.

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WE ARE TOLD ALSO THAT BE-cause of these facts—greatly increased income and diminished supply of desirable goods, the purchasing power of the people will be some 25 billion dollars in excess of the value at current prices of all the goods available for purchase. Without regulation or restriction of some kind that would mean that the owners of those excess billions would be bidding against each other for goods of which there are not enough to go around. The result would be a wild scramble, rapidly increasing prices—uncontrolled inflation ending in disaster.

* * *

THOSE IN CHARGE OF THE GOV-ernment have recognized this danger and have attempted in various ways to avert it. Ceilings have been placed on prices of many goods; the people are urged to save money and especially to invest in war bonds; and taxes are being greatly increased so as to keep to the minimum the war indebtedness of the nation. But in spite of it all, we have inflation with us, not on the scale which was reached a quarter of a century ago, but in very appreciable and menacing form.

* * *

NATIONAL INCOME HAS BEEN IN-creased first by greatly increased employment. The necessities of the war have created demand for labor of every kind so that the former army of the unemployed has been reduced to a skeleton. Not only are there more persons gainfully employed, but their average compensation is far greater than formerly. With more persons at work and with higher compensation for much of

the work done, the people at large have more money to spend, and there are fewer things for which to spend it.

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OFTEN THERE IS A COMPLAINT about the unequal distribution of wealth, and probably there is good reason for some of the complaint. Innumerable methods, some of them fantastic, have been proposed for the correction of whatever abuses exist in this field. It seems not to have occurred to anyone in authority that there are facts underlying excess income which merit attention. Emphasis is placed on the fact that there is in the country a large amount of surplus income, but that excess is as unequally distributed as was ever true of wealth itself.

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THERE ARE IN THE COUNTRY several million persons whose income, in the aggregate, is less in dollars than it was a year or two ago, and much less in purchasing power. They are, first, the white-collar workers and salaried employes, and second, those whose income comes in whole or in part from investments. Together they constitute a large and economically important group, but they are ground between the upper and the nether millstone.

* * *

THOSE IN THIS GREAT GROUP have neither organization nor spokesmen. They see wage increases made right and left on the ground that these are necessary to compensate for the increased cost of living. But, while they have no means of increasing their own income, increases granted to other groups inflate their own living costs and they have no way of keeping the balance even.

* * *

CLERKS AND BOOKKEEPERS, salesmen and professional men, and the millions whose savings are represented in small investments must expect to do their bit in this war. They cannot expect, and few of them do expect living to be "as usual." They must make sacrifices and deprive themselves of many desirable things to which they have been accustomed. But on what theory can it be argued that they alone should make sacrifices and be subjected to deprivations? Our economic wizards seem to forget that while the national income is far greater than it was, only some of the people are getting the increase. And it is upon those who are not getting it that new extractions bear most heavily.

A NORTH DAKOTA YOUNG WOMAN now serving as a missionary in India sent Christmas greetings to a friend in Grand Forks. In order to allow plenty of time for her letter to reach its destination she wrote it on September 28. It arrived February 3. The letter contains some interesting references to conditions and experiences in India, and I have selected from it the following paragraphs:

* * *

"WE WERE IN THE MOUNTAINS IN western India when the Japs were attacking Ceylon. There was considerable excitement in some sections, and many missionaries came where we were for their hot season holiday, as it was considered safer. None of our missionaries went home, however, except those who were due for furlough. Then when we came down from the hills everything apparently was quiet on the surface, but feeling was rising higher and higher, and in our particular section was aggravated by strikes, food shortage, etc.

* * *

"OUR TOWN IS QUITE AN INDUSTRIAL center, with a couple of large cotton mills. In addition to the strike, the mill had to be shut down for quite a long period because of shortage of fuel. Things came to a head in August at the time of Ghandi's arrest, which resulted in our spending a few days in another town. The mill reopened for a few weeks, but has shut down again now. However, it is harvest season and many people find employment in peanut and cotton fields. We have been very thankful for a good monsoon season. There should be plenty of grain, etc., for the coming year.

* * *

"ALL THIS, OF COURSE, HAS AFFECTED our work somewhat in that we have not been able to go about as freely among the village people as formerly. What our future will be here is hard to say, but that something is bound to happen within a year at least seems certain. Things cannot remain as they are indefinitely.

* * *

"WITHIN A STONE'S THROW OF one of the mills, the mill owner has been building an elaborate temple. It is quite modernistic in design and when finished it will be one of the finest in the district. Its tower will be about 100 feet high and is modernistically carved. The inside rooms are beautifully finished. As yet, anyone can visit it, but after the god is put in with elaborate ceremonies only his devotees will be allowed to enter. Of course, the rich mill owner is getting the credit for building it and is supposed to be accumulating all the merit in doing it, whereas in reality he is taking the money out of the wages of the mill workers.

* * *

"AS I MENTIONED BEFORE, WE had a very good monsoon season with the result that everything has been so lovely and green—even our leather goods and shoes! We have had quite a time with our gardens this year, due partly to our ignorance as 'greenhorns' and partly to the excessive rains. When we first came down from the hills we students were here alone, and as a consequence we were very anxious to start our gardening so that by the time our senior missionary would arrive everything would be done

shipshape. We had gleaned as much information as we could, but there are some things in that as in everything else that one learns only by experience. We were bound we were going to have lovely nasturtiums and sweet peas—hadn't we seen them grow in other places? We found to our sorrow after much care and tending that they had never been grown successfully here. And then, how did we know that some flowers do well in the rainy season and others only in the cold season? As a result our two beds out in front have a rather lopsided appearance.

* * *

"IN ORDER TO GET THE EXERCISE, and because it was fun we did most of the work ourselves, much to our gardener's amusement and disgust, I'm afraid. We let him do the vegetables. Then to finish off everything nicely, one Sunday morning when we came out of church we discovered that a little dried-up river had overflowed its banks, and by the time we had finished dinner the entire compound was under several inches of water. When we went out on the veranda we felt as though we were on a steamship deck! It lasted only a few hours, fortunately, so that the plants that were well started survived all right, but several things had to be replanted. When it really begins to rain here there can be a flow in no time in the driest river bed. In fact, most of the rivers dry up altogether during the hot season, except the largest ones."

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THE LETTER DESCRIBES A TIGER hunt in which the writer and a girl friend participated and in which they found more tigers than they were looking for. I shall have to hold that part over until another day.

HERE IS THE STORY, LEFT OVER from yesterday, of the tiger hunt in which the North Dakota missionary and another girl took part:

"It was in a wild, hilly jungle," says the writer, "about 100 miles from here where we have our station. After fastening a live goat for a decoy we climbed up in a tree where a native cot had been fixed for us to watch for the tiger. The men climbed up into another tree and we prepared to keep vigil. We girls had no guns, which was unfortunate, for not one tiger came, but three!

* * *

THEY CAME ON OUR SIDE SO THAT we were between them and the tree the men were in. They evidently suspected something and they stayed in one spot near us and would not go near the goat. We began to see visions of ourselves furnishing them a nice juicy breakfast. We all remembered the awful stories we had read about them. They finally left, but we got an open ox cart and went to look for them. They are so accustomed to the native ox cart that it does not frighten them. The natives never will go out in the jungle at night, and I don't know that I'd care to without someone along who had a gun."

The writer leaves the story there without saying whether they found those particular tigers or any others. She gives the following bit about mountain climbing:

* * *

THERE IS SOMETHING THAT I like much better even than tiger hunting, and that is mountain climbing. In the mountains this year we had several very good hikes. I was along on two occasions when we really did some climbing. It's a wonderful feeling to reach the top of a peak after a hard, grueling climb, using ropes and what not to scale cliffs. And the scenery is magnificent! If conditions permit I hope to go to northern India some time where the real mountains are."

* * *

WAR IS PRODUCTIVE OF EMOTION, and emotion tends to express itself in verse. That is why, I suppose, the stream of amateur poetry that reaches my desk

had grown from a mere trickle to a devastating flood. I have never been able to use more than a small fraction of the verse which kind friends have sent me, and the selection of the few specimens that could be used from the quantity offered has always been an embarrassing task. Now the quantity has grown to such proportions that I am compelled to beg for mercy. Please don't send any more verses!

* * *

INABILITY TO PUBLISH THE verse offered has nothing to do with its quality. Some of it is good, some less good, but the best that I can do with any of it is to publish occasional selections which appear likely to be of general interest because of reasons quite apart from their literary merit. There are magazines which specialize in the publication of verse, amateur and professional, and which, doubtless, are glad to consider all offerings.

* * *

A FEW DAYS AGO I REFERRED TO the decision of the Illinois supreme court sustaining the board of trustees of the University of Illinois in its refusal to yield to the demand of the attorney general that Judge Sveinbjor Johnson be removed from his position as university counsel and the attorney general's appointee be put in his place. The case has interested the Christian Century which made the following comment in a recent issue; referring to an examination made by a committee of "educators:

* * *

"MEANWHILE A COMMITTEE OF the American Council of Education, appointed at the request of the university's board of trustees to investigate Attorney General Barrett's charge that the school has been a political football and has been on the downward grade since 1934, reported 'unanimously and unequivocally' that 'it has not been able to find evidence to substantiate such a charge.' The report declared that 'not only has no actual deterioration been disclosed, but the facts indicate that the university has made gains in some noteworthy features, that it has kept the status quo in many.'"

SOME YEARS AGO, BEFORE Hitler began to plague the world, Dr. and Mrs. H. D. Benwell spent several months in Vienna, where Dr. Benwell was continuing his medical studies. During their residence there the Benwells kept house, and they employed as maid a young Viennese woman who seems to have been all that a maid should be. Most of the family marketing was done by this girl, who was discriminating in her purchases and always careful to get proper value for the money spent.

* * *

MRS. BENWELL NOTICED THAT while the maid always purchased food of the first quality for her employers she bought for herself second grade, and therefore cheaper goods which she prepared for herself in the kitchen. Mrs. Benwell explained to the girl that she was not expected to do this, and that she was expected to buy the same grade of food for herself as that which she set on the family table. The girl was surprised and shocked. She had been following a custom invariably observed among her people, a custom which appeared to her perfectly right, and she was unwilling to change it. Nothing short of an absolute command would have induced her to change her practice, and it was plain that even then she would be unhappy in doing something so contrary to all the rules of good behavior. To her it seemed natural and right that master and servant should live on different planes, wear different clothes and eat different kinds of food. Anything else would have been immoral. There was nothing for it but to let the girl have her own way, and she continued, quite happily, to buy second grade food for herself.

* * *

PERHAPS THAT INCIDENT HAS NO bearing on such weighty problems as are involved in the shaping of the post-war world, but I often think of it in that connection when I read of plans for the creation overnight of a new social order in which all the inhabitants of the world will be American in custom, outlook and ways of thinking. Influences which shape human lives are too deeply rooted to be changed abruptly, and concepts of human relations which we find right and necessary would be as mysterious and repugnant to some others as the Viennese girl found the strange notion that the servant should eat as good food as that provided for the family which she served. If a condition can be created in which all will

have liberty to achieve for themselves the best that is in them the world will have taken a long step forward.

* * *

OPERATORS OF A NEW YORK laundry suddenly found themselves unable to get water from the taps of the plant. Investigation revealed that the stoppage had been caused by the presence of an eel in the service pipe. The company filed a claim for some \$600 against the city for damages due to stoppage of work and injury to material. The claim was disallowed on the ground that as the eel was in the service pipe it was the company's eel, and not the city's. If the fish had been found in the main, so ran the decision, it would have been the city's liability. Seems to me there is something screwy about that decision. If it wasn't the city's eel in the first place, how did it get into the service pipe?

* * *

AN ARMY SOURCE HAS RECOMMENDED that the government immediately take over all the spare tires, leaving each car with only the four in actual use. If it is necessary for the government to take my spare tire, that will be all right with me. But it might as well take the other four while it is about it, for without a spare tire a car is practically useless. What's one to do if he has a flat a mile, or 10 miles from home, and no spare? Ruin the flat by driving on it to the nearest repair shop, drive on the rim, or telephone for help when there isn't a phone within reach?

* * *

IT TURNS OUT THAT AFTER ALL the soldiers at San Angelo, Texas, don't consume 900 pounds of food in 12 weeks, as was reported. It is explained that the person who gave out the figures included the weight of containers with that of the food. The revised estimate is that instead of 900 pounds of food there is used about 550 pounds, which figures out to about 6.6 pounds per man per day. Which seems plenty, at that.

* * *

IT APPEARS THAT THERE IS available many thousands of yards of window curtain material that nobody thought of a while ago. Because of slight defects in a large quantity of parachute material the whole lot was condemned. The defects are so slight as not to be noticeable, but parachute cloth must be perfect. The material is said to be just the thing for window curtains.

I HAVE HEARD A LOT OF CONVERSATION about the method to be employed in reporting individual stocks of canned goods before rationing goes into effect, and it appears that somebody in Washington has done some queer figuring. According to statements emanating from Washington, and widely published, each person before receiving a ration card must report the number of cans of rationed foods on hand in excess of five cans, and coupons representing the number of cans so reported will be withheld as the coupon book is issued.

* * *

ACCORDING TO THE ANNOUNCEMENTS cans containing less than eight ounces, except, perhaps, for a few specially described foods, are exempt and need not be reported, but the householder must surrender coupons for all cans of eight ounces or more in excess of five. The joker is in the fact that the individual will be charged the same number of "points" for possession of a 10- or 12-ounce can as for one containing two or three times as much.

* * *

MANY FAMILIES FIND IT CONVENIENT to buy canned soups, fruit juices, etc., in the smaller cans. Anyone so unfortunate as to have on hand a dozen of the small cans (in excess of the five that are exempt) must surrender the same number of coupons that are deducted from the book of the neighbor who has the same quantity of the same material, but contained in larger cans. Rationing is necessary, and there can be no valid objection to it, but it is obvious that the consumer should be charged with material on hand on the basis of actual quantity rather than on the size of the package.

* * *

JUST WHEN IS A PERSON RIGHT-handed or left-handed? The question is suggested by the answer given in the Haskin column to a somewhat similar query. Mr. Haskin says:

"A right-handed shoveler would place the right hand in the dominant position nearest the free end of the handle and swing the shovel to the left. A left-handed person will place the left hand nearest the free end of the handle and swing the shovel to the right."

* * *

ACCORDING TO MY OBSERVATION

just the reverse of this is usually, though not always true. I believe that in handling a shovel, hoe or other two-handed implement most right-handed persons will hold the end of the handle in the left hand, while most left-handed persons will reverse the position. I believe that to be the prevalent practice, though there are so many exceptions that one can scarcely say that there is a definite rule. When you are not shoveling snow yourself just watch other people shovel, and check up.

* * *

INNUMERABLE SUGGESTIONS have been offered for the best way to dispose of Hitler after the war is over. While speculation on the subject is scarcely constructive some of the proposals made are interesting, and I found the following amusing:

* * *

AFTER THE WAR, SAYS THE ORIGINATOR of the plan, let Hitler be taken all over the world and exhibited in all the capitals, charging a high fee for the privilege of seeing him. Then let him be shown in smaller cities at a lower fee. Continue the process at diminishing fees until he is shown at fairs and carnivals for a nickel a peep, and until the small boy, hearing the barker announcing the spectacle will say "Aw, that guy! Nobody cares about him. Let's go and look at the white mice."

* * *

FOR A LONG TIME I HAVE WONDERED what I was keeping all those old shoes for. Now I know.

* * *

TOKYO REPORTED THE OTHER day that Japanese forces had withdrawn from the Guadalcanal area, their mission having been completed. That sounds all right, but I imagine our fellows over there are not taking anything for granted. Probably they have in mind the possibility that the wily Japs are getting things ready for another mission.

SINCE THE GOVERNMENT BEGAN the collection of income taxes, the tax which one is required to pay has been based on yearly incomes. Income for a given year is computed, legal deductions are made, the current tax rate is applied, and the taxpayer is held indebted to the government in the sum thus reached. Reports must be made by March 15 of the following year, and the required tax must be paid then or in quarterly installments thereafter. Payment of tax in income of a given year does not begin until three months after the end of that year, and may be extended through all of the following year.

* * *

WHILE THIS PRACTICE PREVAILS, the sensible thing for the taxpayer to do would be to estimate as closely as he can the tax which he will be required to pay on the income of a given year, and at the beginning of that year lay aside from his income as it is received a definite proportion of the anticipated tax. Then, when the time for payment comes, he will have on hand enough money to meet the obligation.

* * *

THAT WOULD BE THE SENSIBLE method. Unfortunately, few of us are sensible enough to do it that way. It would be sensible to budget all other stated expenditures in a similar way—household expenses, insurance, real estate taxes, etc. But only the very small minority do anything of the sort. In the majority of cases obligations which must be met at the end of the year but need not be met earlier are given little attention until the end of the year comes, and then, too often, there is no money to pay the bill.

* * *

IN THE RUMI PLAN AND ITS SEV-eral variations provisions is made for compulsory payment of taxes as income is earned. That is the essence of the whole plan. In the case of wage workers and salaried persons the amount of the tax will be withheld from the wage or salary as it is paid. Special provision is made with respect to incomes derived from other sources. The result will be that by the end of the year the tax will be paid. It will have been made in weekly or monthly installments, causing less embarrassment to the individual than if payment were postponed for a year and collection were then made in a lump.

THERE IS CONFUSION OF THOUGHT over the proposal to eliminate the year 1942 as a basis of income tax computation. That confusion arises in part from the notion that taxes constitute a specific total debt similar to a debt owed by one individual to another and which is completely extinguished by payment of a particular sum. There is no similarity. Each individual owes and will owe to the government whatever the government thinks it necessary to collect from him, this year, and next year, and every other year. Hence, except for differences arising from increases or differences in income, it makes no difference what year is used as a base.

* * *

PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN MADE IN the North Dakota legislature to discontinue the sales tax and to repeal the income tax law. Rather strangely, it does not seem to have occurred to anyone to repeal all our tax laws. Certainly everyone would welcome freedom from all taxation. It happens, however, that if the state is to continue in operation as an organized unit, money must be obtained from some source to pay its bills. Almost all of that money is raised by taxation, and taxes have been levied in various ways with intent to distribute the burden of taxation as equitable as possible.

* * *

IF THE INCOME TAX LAW IS RE-pealed and the sales tax law is permitted to expire by limitation the state will lack the revenues which have been derived from those sources, and, as the revenues are not now greater than required to meet expenses, other taxes must be levied to make up the difference. One proposal is that property taxes be increased. The fact is that tangible property, real and personal, is now carrying about all the tax load that it can stand. To increase railroad and utility taxes would be to invite increases in rail and utility rates for service, and those increases would be paid by all the people. The proposal to eliminate sales and income taxes emanates from the conception of statesmanship represented by the congressman who boasted that he maintained his popularity with his constituency by voting for every appropriation bill and against every tax bill.

FEDERAL INTERNAL REVENUE collections made in 1942 were almost double the collections made in 1941. The total for 1941 was \$8,689,097,890, and for 1942, \$16,774,416,290. Receipts from individual income taxes showed the greatest increase, jumping from \$1,621,648,439 in 1941 to \$4,061,858,118 in 1942. Corporation taxes rose from \$2,267,223,878 to \$3,982,816,183. Other receipts were from miscellaneous sources.

* * *

IN 1942 NORTH DAKOTA STOOD at the bottom of the list in total contributions to federal revenues, with South Dakota a close second. In 1941 North Dakota corporations paid federal taxes in the amount of \$662,096. In 1942 this was increased to \$1,240,937. North Dakota's individual federal income taxes paid in 1941 amounted to \$750,593, and in 1942 \$3,738,943. Figures for South Dakota for the two years were, corporations, \$825,626 and \$1,436,512; individual income, \$874,176 and \$3,578,395. In 1942 North Dakota's individual tax payments were slightly greater than South Dakota's. In 1942 collections from all sources were, North Dakota, \$8,402,565; South Dakota, \$9,218,761. For 1942 the six states in the lowest bracket were, beginning at the bottom, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Nevada. New York topped the list with collections of more than three billions and collections between one and two billions each were made from California, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

* * *

SHORTAGE OF PAPER AND SCARCITY of labor has caused New York theaters to economize in the distribution of programs to patrons. Persons entering alone are given a program, as usual, but if two go together one program is given the couple.

* * *

POPULAR FICTION HAS EVERY capital full of spies who get at the inmost secrets of governments and military commanders. But the president of the United States and the British premier, together with the highest military officials of the two nations traveled thousands of miles to a rendezvous in Africa, and were in conference there for 10 days, and the Germans didn't know a thing

about it until the facts were made public by the two governments concerned. The Germans rather suspected that Churchill was away from London, and they sent out several fishing announcements, but they never got a glimmer of the facts. Neither did they know that Churchill was visiting Turkey until the British radio told them. Exploits of the fictional spies have been marvelous, but in these cases the actual spies fell down on the job most lamentably. But fully as marvelous as anything attributed to spies in fiction is the fact that a conference so intensely interesting to the whole world could be kept secret from the enemy, and from the general public in the friendly countries when so many people had to know about it.

* * *

A STALK OF CELERY WEIGHING 15 pounds, and believed to be the largest ever grown, was produced at Cgula Vista, Calif., perhaps as an indication of what the state intends to do in food production this year. But imagine one crunching away at such a stalk while carrying on light conversation while the host carves the roast—if there is a roast.

* * *

THE MAYOR OF TRENTON WAS not invited to a dinner sponsored by Governor Edison of New Jersey, nor was the governor invited to a dinner sponsored by Mayor Hague, although the governor was announced as guest speaker at the latter dinner. The governor wished it understood that he had not been invited, and declined to say whether or not he would attend if invited. This is not a mere scrap over social precedence such as have occasionally occurred in Washington. The governor and the mayor are mortal enemies.

* * *

THE CHAP WHO NAMED HIS BOY Adolf Hitler and then changed the name to Theodore Roosevelt had the former name registered. He finds that to make the change will require court proceedings, which will cost money. He wonders if the public will provide the money. Probably there are suckers who will do just that thing. What ways there are of pulling the public's leg!

DANIEL CASEY, WHO PITCHED baseball for the Philadelphia team many years ago, died in a Washington, D. C. hospital last week at the age of 80. He never abandoned the conviction that he was the original Casey of the poem "Casey at the Bat," which was written by Ernest L. Thayer and popularized in thousands of recitations by De Wolf Hopper. Just how he got the idea that he was the frustrated hero of the poem is not clear, but long after the poem became popular he recalled that some time before the publication of the verses he pitched for Philadelphia with considerable success, but had not been equally successful as a batter. However, in 1887, while playing on the home grounds against the New York Giants, he made a home run, and the fans expected and demanded another. Unfortunately he struck out.

* * *

THE ONLY BASIS FOR HIS IDENTIFICATION with the hero of the poem seems to be that his name was Casey, and that he struck out. There is no evidence that Thayer, author of the poem, knew anything about him. On the contrary, Thayer himself wrote that "the poem has no history," which would indicate that the story and characters are all fictitious.

* * *

THAYER WROTE THE POEM WHILE he was a reporter on the San Francisco Examiner and it was published in that paper over his initials. After Hopper first recited it on the stage of Wallack's theater in 1888 many persons came forward to claim authorship, but there was conclusive evidence in favor of Thayer. The poem became the bane of DeWolf Hopper's life. Wherever he went, and in whatever character he appeared, audiences demanded "Casey at the Bat," and he had to deliver. He recited it several thousand times, and then some.

* * *

THERE ARE POLITICAL QUESTIONS affecting France and the French colonies which have not been settled and which may prove difficult of settlement. But it is to be noted that while British and American armies are striking at the Nazis from the West, and a British army is striking from the East, Giraud's forces are also striking from the West, and De Gaulle's from the South. That is the kind of co-operation that we need just now, and we seem to be getting it. The African campaign is first and foremost a

military campaign, and we seem to be making good use of the military material that we found on the ground. Some people seem to think that we should have first taken a stand as between the political factions, accepted help only from one, and fought our way through the other.

* * *

GEORGE ADE, ENJOYING dignified leisure in Florida, recalls his youth in Indiana, among other things the practice of tying a bag of asafoetida around a child's neck to ward off whatever disease might be afloat. That was a familiar practice, by no means confined to Indiana. But when he tells of carrying a buckeye in the pocket as a preventive of rheumatism and describes a buckeye as a "petrified potato," he strikes something new to me. In my boyhood the horse chestnut was considered the proper thing to carry to ward off rheumatism. In my part of the country we didn't call it anything but a horse chestnut, but in Ohio the horse chestnut is a buckeye, and that is why Ohio is the buckeye state. I never heard of the horse chestnut being associated with the potato, petrified or otherwise.

* * *

SOME WRITER, DESCRIBING THE manner in which different people use different names for the same thing, says that an American, an Englishman and a Frenchman agreed to meet at a certain hour in an apartment on the first floor of a designated building. The American entered an apartment on the ground floor of the building, and waited. The Englishman climbed a flight of stairs, entered an apartment, and waited. After all had wearied of waiting they left the building and met on the sidewalk. Each thought he had been waiting on the "first" floor of the building.

IT SEEMS THERE IS SUCH A THING as a general running out of a job in the middle of a war. In the British house of commons the other day, Premier Churchill read the following message which he had received from General Alexander in charge of British military operations with headquarters at Cairo:

"Sir:—The orders you gave me on Aug. 15, 1942, have been fulfilled. The enemy, together with their impediments, have been completely eliminated from Egypt, Cyrenaica, Libya and Tripolitania. I now await your further instructions."

The premier remarked that it would not be necessary to think of something else for General Alexander.

* * *

MAYOR LAGUARDIA OF NEW YORK has his own idea of the way to keep an official secret. It will be remembered that the formal announcement of shoe rationing was made on Sunday, to take effect on Monday morning. The purpose was to prevent a rush on the shoe stores before the order took effect. In a speech delivered on Saturday night, Mr. LaGuardia said that another rationing order was about to be made. It would not relate to food, he said, and he advised those who heard him to do no more walking than necessary. Everyone knew that the order would apply to shoes, and all the New York stores that were open on Sunday were crowded with customers buying shoes.

* * *

MANY OF THE DESIGNERS OF men's clothing think the ban should be removed from the making of vests to go with double breasted coats. One reason advanced is that a man needs the vest pockets in which to put things. Of course, when we get right down to the basis of spartan living we shall not have so many things to put in pockets. I have no idea where the word "vest" came from—I suppose the dictionary would tell—but in England the garment which we call a vest was, and perhaps is known as a waistcoat. The origin of that term is quite clear. The waistcoat was designed as a short, sleeveless coat, of waist length, and among working people it was often worn as a substitute for the more formal coat.

ONE WRITER WHO AMUSES HIMSELF by shying bricks at verbal redundancies doesn't like the phrase "of between." There is no sense, he says, in saying that a man gets a salary "of between" \$2,000 and \$2,500 a year. The word "of" there, he insists is needless, out of place, and a waste of breath or ink. He says a man doesn't live "of between" Madison and Park avenues, but just "between" them. That is, if he doesn't live between First and Second avenues.

* * *

IT IS AN OLD STORY THAT WHEN one goes from the Atlantic to the Pacific through the Panama canal he doesn't go westward, but eastward through the canal. But now that we are doing more looking at maps we make other discoveries. We find, for instance, that the most westerly Aleutian islands—part of Alaska—are about 1,000 miles west of the most easterly tip of Russia; that everything in the United States west of Detroit is west of the entire continent of South America; that the east coast of South America is farther east of the United States than it is west of Africa; that the Cape of Good Hope is not the most southerly point of Africa—Cape Agulhas is; that the city of Kharkov, capital of the Ukraine, which the Russians have pinched off, is of almost exactly the same latitude with Winnipeg; that all of China, except a few square miles, is farther south than Winnipeg; that the Panama canal is almost directly south of Buffalo; and that Tokyo is almost due west of San Francisco instead of being a lot farther north, which would seem more natural. But the Japs are a contrary lot, anyway.

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PREMIER CHURCHILL TOLD THE other day of an Allied offensive to be got under way within nine months. President Roosevelt mentioned before the end of the year, which amounts to about the same thing. If the Germans think there will be no offensive in less than nine months they may get another surprise one of these days.

O. H. GREMSGARD OF RUGBY writes to learn in what year it was that New Year's day was observed by baseball games being played "in nearly every town in the Red river valley." He and a friend are unable to decide whether the year was 1889 or 1890.

The year was 1889. I have personal reasons for fixing the date, so I am quite certain about it. I don't know in how many towns baseball was played, but it was played in some, and the weather was such that the game could have been played in comfort anywhere.

* * *

I DIDN'T SEE ANY BALL GAMES that day, but I did witness a total eclipse of the sun. The eclipse occurred late in the day, and the sun sank eclipsed. The sky had been clear all day and the air warm. That afternoon I was at the home of a farm neighbor and everyone stood out in the yard watching the unusual sunset. I recall that we men were all in shirtsleeves on account of the warmth.

* * *

IN GRAND FORKS THE DAY WAS celebrated in a different manner. The custom of making New Year's calls was then popular. Young men made the rounds of the homes of their friends, spending a short time at each, and partaking of refreshments. Ladies often announced that they would receive calls on that day. Often the callers found it difficult to carry all the refreshments offered by hospitable hostesses. Instead of making calls in the usual manner a group of 10 or 12 Grand Forks young men made the rounds on horseback, wearing linen dusters. I think E. J. Lander is the only surviving member of that group now living in Grand Forks. Geo. B. Clifford, now of Minneapolis, was one of the party.

* * *

IT IS OFTEN SAID THAT ONE swallow doesn't make a spring. Neither does one warm New Year's day make a mild winter. The early part of the winter of 1888-89 was unusually mild. The fields were bare and cattle fed contentedly in the open. But by mid-January there was a change and for about six weeks one blizzard followed another. However, the snow disappeared quickly, and quite early, and I think some seeding was done in March.

* * *

I THINK THERE WAS ANOTHER New Year's day, sometime in the early 1900's, when baseball was played in some North Dakota towns, but I have no means

of fixing the date. Perhaps someone can supply the information.

* * *

EVERYONE SEEMED TO ENJOY the Romberg concert, and I don't see how it could have been otherwise, for the long program was sufficiently varied to contain something pleasing to every taste except the extremely high brow and the extremely low brow. By no means the least interesting was the conductor himself, who entered into the spirit of each number with an enthusiasm which communicated itself to the audience. He seemed to have a special affection for the waltz passages, during some of which the audience swayed sympathetically and visibly. Under the direction of a cold blooded conductor much of the music would have fallen flat, although friends who know a lot more about music than I do tell me that the orchestra was unusually good.

* * *

ROMBERG IS MUCH MORE FREE with his gestures than most of the conductors whom we have seen here, and that fact caused me to recall Creatore, although there is not the slightest similarity between the two men. Years ago Creatore was quite famous as the conductor of an Italian band. He himself was Italian, slight, dark, with a great mop of long black hair, and he was noted for the wild extravagance of his gestures. During a big number he was all over the stage, waving both arms like a wild man, threatening, entreating, silencing, and by the time a number was over he would look as if he had been through a threshing machine.

* * *

CREATORE'S ECCENTRICITIES were featured by his press agents and some who cared little for music went to see the wild man perform. Probably there was some conscious exaggeration of movement for publicity purposes, but after seeing him perform I became convinced that Creatore actually lost himself in the music and became unconscious of his surroundings. I was told that he became as excited at rehearsals as before an audience.

* * *

ROMBERG HAS NONE OF THAT wildness. He gives one the impression that he is thoroughly enjoying the music and that he hopes the audience is enjoying it. He is a great showman. Creatore seemed not to know, or care, that there was an audience. I am not sure if he is now living. Years ago he had a serious nervous breakdown and he did no conducting for several years. He then resumed his work but I have a vague impression that I saw a notice of his death.

THOSE WHO HAVE GONE FROM North Dakota to spend their winters in California enjoy the beauty of the western flowers while our landscape is clothed in white, but they still have recollections of beauty which can be seen only where frost's artistic fingers work their marvelous designs. Such recollections are those of Mrs. T. A. Rees, long a resident of Grand Forks, who writes from Encinitas, Calif., as follows:

* * *

"THE NEWSPAPER REPORTS OF real winter weather in Grand Forks bring to my mind the magic loveliness of frost pictures on window panes in by-gone days. One Sunday morning, maybe 30 years ago, the girls and I passed by the Stinson implement building, just north of the Great Northern tracks on Fifth street, on our way to Sabbath school and church.

* * *

"JACK FROST HAD PAINTED, ON the great plate glass window, a bewitchingly beautiful tropical landscape with tall trees flanked by exquisite ferns, grasses and flowers all in snowy white. Cold as it was we stood on the sidewalk several minutes in delighted wonder. Many times we had watched trees and flowers grow on the home window panes, however, this plate glass picture surpassed all others.

* * *

"WHILE WE ARE ENJOYING NARCISSI, carnations, green and variegated myrtle with their blue blossoms, giant pink and white oxalis, and nasturtiums and white and peach and red geraniums you have those frost flowers. We do enjoy the Herald, yet there is a heartache when we read familiar names in the list of boys who have gone overseas. May their guardian angels keep them safe."

* * *

WE MISS SOME OF THOSE FROST pictures in modern houses, centrally heated and equipped with storm windows. The storm windows protect the inner glass from frost, and unless care is taken to humidify the air there isn't enough moisture left in it to paint a picture on a window pane. But where the conditions are right those frost pictures are marvelous. On the other hand, if there is too much moisture and no storm windows, in extreme cold weather there are likely to be no pictures, but only a thick, opaque covering of white frost on the glass. In such case the way to see out through the window is to melt off the frost with a farm flatiron—not too hot, or it may crack the glass.

THE OLD CLAIM SHANTY WASN'T an ideal winter residence, but it had its points. Its walls were of one thickness of boards, covered with tar paper. If they were well built they would turn wind fairly well, but frost would strike right through. Sometimes the building had but one room, and there a family lived, slept, cooked and washed. Cold? Not a bit of it! It was more likely to be stifling hot. The air was saturated with vapor which congealed on the thin walls, making the place air tight, and frost gathered on the walls, melted and froze in thick masses near the floor. Such a dwelling wouldn't comply with modern health standards, but plenty of people spent winters in just such shelters and seemed to thrive on it.

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A PRESS REPORT SAYS THE TEMPERATURE dropped to 50 below zero the other night at Warrensburg, N Y. I wonder if the thermometer used wasn't one of the same kind that sometimes register 50 below zero here when the actual temperature is somewhere in the thirties. Some times we read of excessively low temperatures in the East, but find that the record was made at the top of some mountain. However, they had terribly cold weather all through New York and New England, and there were reported 27 deaths from cold. Warrensburg is not in the mountains, but near the southern tip of Lake George, in an area that is rugged, but scarcely mountainous, and not of sufficient altitude to account for abnormally low temperatures.

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A REPORT CURRENT IN THE EAST, but not officially confirmed, is that the purchase of new automobiles of date as late as 1941 is to be permitted. The idea is to permit dealers to get rid of some thousands of cars now on hand. According to the unofficial statement sales may be made only to persons who can demonstrate their need for a car and can show that the present car is no longer serviceable.

gress a long time and newspaper correspondents whose business it has been for years to record the sayings and doings of those in high places are not easily moved emotionally. Even if they do not become cynical custom has toughened their skins and strengthened their resistance to emotional appeals. But when Madame Chiang Kai-Shek addressed first the senate and then the house on Thursday there was visible evidence of emotion among those who heard her. Her message from a people who have suffered patiently and struggled gallantly for more than five years was a stirring one, no matter by whom it might have been delivered, and it was all the more appealing because of the personality of the speaker. Her brief address to the senate was extemporaneous, for she had not expected to speak there, but one correspondent said that it touched him even more deeply than the prepared address in the house, and he said that gray haired senators frankly wiped the tears from their eyes as they heard it.

* * *

MADAME CHIANG KAI-SHEK IS the remarkable representative of a remarkable people. Of a distinguished Chinese family, she was educated in the United States, and she has a profound understanding and appreciation of those ideals to which great Americans have devoted their lives. But she remains Chinese in sympathy and outlook, sharing fully the hopes and aspirations of her people, and devoting herself unreservedly to the cause on which she has set her heart, the right of her people to live their own lives and shape their own destiny, free from the domination of alien masters.

* * *

IN SPEAKING TO THE NATION'S lawmakers she made an earnest plea for help for her people in carrying on the struggle in which they have been engaged for so long, and she expressed the belief that has long been current in China and that has been freely expressed in some other quarters that in focusing attention on the Hitler menace the United Nations, and the United States in particular, are making the mistake of giving too little attention to the menace represented by Japan.

* * *

IT WAS POINTED OUT, AS IT HAS been before, that delay in launching a major offensive against Japan gives that nation time to tighten her grip on the territory that she has seized, to build up

her reserves and to strengthen every position that she holds. The facts cited are undeniable, and undoubtedly it would be a grand thing for China and for the world if Japan could be crushed completely and immediately. But in considering the position taken by Madame Chiang Kai-Shek some allowance must be made for her intense and legitimate interest in her own people, their sufferings and their peril.

* * *

THIS IS NOT A PACIFIC WAR, OR A European war, but a global war, in which every front is important. But in the nature of things it is not possible for the United Nations to conduct a major offensive on every front at once. To attempt anything of the kind would be to court disaster. To attempt a frontal attack on Japan at this time would be suicidal. To attempt to land an expedition in China would be hopeless. Japan controls all the lanes of approach. We could send planes to China, but planes are useless without fuel and material for repairs, and as the case now stands those things can be transported only by roundabout routes subject to constant harassment by the enemy.

* * *

FOR THE PRESENT PURPOSES OF this war the road to China is through the Mediterranean and the Allies are engaged in the task of opening that road as rapidly as they can. In that respect the campaign against Germany and that against Japan are one. And the task of opening that road is not an easy one. As a major part of that program we have landed an expedition in Africa. From the other direction a British army smashed the German offensive and chased the German army across the continent. We expected, and still expect the combined Allied forces to drive the enemy out of Africa, but while Madame Chiang Kai-Shek spoke in the capitol, German forces were driving the Allies back in Tunisia. The Allies have not failed in their effort in Africa, but they have not yet accomplished their purpose. Shall they abandon it and turn their attention to the Pacific? Or shall they do what they can with the forces there and instead of strengthening their offensive, start another against Japan? Or was it a mistake to enter Africa at all, and should we not have left Hitler in control of the Mediterranean? Such questions answer themselves. We must finish what we have started, and in clearing the Mediterranean we shall also be opening the way to China.

EVERY SESSION OF THE STATE legislature is productive of one or more freak bills. A few years ago there was introduced a resolution providing that the state of North Dakota withdraw from the union. That was intended as a grim joke, satirizing the tendency of some members to support legislation contrary to the spirit of the federal constitution. While the purpose of the resolution was obvious, the alleged secession movement in North Dakota was treated quite seriously by some sections of the eastern press as evidence of the dangerous spirit that pervaded the wild and woolly west.

* * *

THIS YEAR THE HOUSE PUT TO sleep a resolution for a constitutional amendment providing that Cass county be excluded from the state and either annexed to Minnesota or erected as the 49th state of the union. That was intended as a slap at Cass county legislators who were charged with seeking to dominate the state in the interest of outsiders. The resolution was given short shrift, which was expected.

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ANOTHER RESOLUTION WHICH may or may not have been seriously intended was for a constitutional amendment providing that each county in the state be represented by one senator instead of having senators elected by districts as at present. The mover of the resolution defended it on the ground that it was in harmony with the United States constitution under which each state elects two senators, regardless of its population. Objection was made on the ground that the plan would give a minority control of the state senate, as a majority of the counties have altogether only a small minority of the state's population.

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WHILE THE POINT WAS NOT MADE in the debate, the fact is that there is no similarity between county representation and state representation in the federal senate. Each of the original colonies was an independent and sovereign state and all of them were jealous of their sovereign rights. While the smaller states were willing that representation in the popular branch of congress should be on the basis of population they insisted that each state should have equal representation in the senate, regardless of its size, and it was so arranged. The county is not a sov-

ern body. It has only such rights as the sovereign state may see fit to grant, and the parallel attempted to be drawn in the legislative deviate does not exist.

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A CURIOUS EXAMPLE OF THE MIS-understanding which an able man may have of elementary facts was afforded years ago in the senate debate on the resolution providing for direct popular election of senators instead of by the state legislatures. The change was vehemently opposed by the late Senator Hoar of Massachusetts. The constitution, said the Massachusetts senator, was based on recognition of the sovereignty of the states and to change the method of electing senators would destroy that sovereignty. He felt that the very foundations of the republic were being assailed. He was an able and patriotic man, but, strangely, it did not occur to him that state sovereignty was recognized in the equal representation of the states in the senate, and not in the manner in which senators were elected.

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IF THE PRACTICE OF SHIFTING clocks forward and back is kept up it will soon be as difficult to tell the time of day as it was before standard time was invented. When war time was imposed in this country, blanketing the country, summer and winter, all the clocks were shoved forward an hour. The plan created hardship for some localities and now clocks are being shifted back. The Georgia legislature has transferred the eastern half of the state from eastern to central time, so that time will be uniform throughout the state. A new Ohio law abolishes advanced war time for that state, but it will continue to be observed by the railroads. In North Dakota it is proposed to move the east half of the state into mountain time, making the state uniform. No human ingenuity can change the fact that the sun shines over the East earlier than over the West, and until that fact is changed eastern and western time will be different. The standard system comes nearest to being the logical one.

WHEN I READ IN THE SUNDAY Herald that the tulips were up at the home of W. S. Sundahl on Conklin avenue I wondered about mine. I looked, and they too were up, several pale shoots showing in the few inches of bare earth between the house and the snowdrift. I hadn't expected to see them, for the snow has been so deep on that side of the house that I didn't suppose any bare ground would be visible, but the warmth of the past few days had exposed a narrow strip of earth close to the house. Probably the tulip shoots had been above ground for some days beneath the snow.

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FEBRUARY 5 IS THE EARLIEST date on which I have found any of my tulips above ground. That was several years ago. Since then they have shown later in February, and sometimes not until March. The later they appear—if not too late—the better I like it. They will stand a lot of freezing, but I have had them damaged by alternate hard freezing and thawing. However, those planted within a few inches of the basement wall get some heat from the basement and are bound to start early.

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FOR SEVERAL YEARS I HAVE BEEN trying to grow roses with only moderate success. Last year I got a few new plants and had an interesting experience with them. A few I planted immediately on arrival. The surface of the ground was dry, but underneath it was cold and in one or two places I had to dig through frost in order to get the holes deep enough. The others I heeled in, and happened to place them in a sunny corner of the garden because that space was available. Those plants remained heeled in warm earth for about two weeks before being set where they were to grow. Those that were heeled in started earlier than the others, grew more rapidly and bloomed earlier. My theory is that the warm, shallow earth stimulated them, while the others were held back by the chill of the soil in which they were planted.

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ed that he is ready to take whatever is being dished out to them. The other day General Eisenhower went close to the front to observe operations. Ninety minutes later the ground over which he had driven was strafed by the enemy. I suppose the general had a special reason for going so near the battle line. Certainly he didn't go to show that he is a brave man. That needs no demonstration. But except on rare occasions the general's place is behind and not in front of his troops. He has thousands of men who can handle a gun or bayonet as well as he can, but he is supposed to be able to direct a battle better than they can.

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THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON ONCE said that Napoleon in the field was worth 40 thousand men. Being asked about the statement later he repeated it, but he added "I did not say that Napoleon at the front was worth 40 thousand men." He made a distinction between the general "in the field" where he could survey the entire scene and direct operations and the general in the front of battle where he could see and direct nothing.

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THERE HAS BEEN A REVIVAL OF the story of the dead man found in the car as a sort of prelude to the death of Hitler.

The story is in substance that some person, man or woman, was told that he would find a dead man in his or her car, and that Hitler would die so many days from that date. The owner of the car did find a dead man in it, therefore Hitler's death may be expected at the stated time.

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THAT STORY HAS BEEN TOLD, with variations, in many parts of the country. Thus far no one has been able to identify the dead man or the owner of the car. Many months ago a Grand Forks lady was reported to have owned the car and found the dead man. It turned out that she had heard the story and repeated it to a friend as a silly yarn which nobody would believe.

SOME INTERESTING STUDIES IN North Dakota weather have been made by Dr. J. M. Gillette, of the University sociology department, who has reduced to tables and graphs the records of temperature and precipitation, in some cases for the state and in others for Grand Forks county for the half century during which records have been kept. Even among those who have not watched the thermometer closely there is the firm conviction that January, 1943, was a fairly cold month. That belief is confirmed by the record. Dr. Gillette finds that at Grand Forks the average mean temperature for January was -3.4 degrees. There have been colder Januaries, but only six of them, namely, those of 1907, with -6.2; 1912, -4.6; 1916, 6.0; 1929, -4.8; 1936, -5.8; and 1937, -8.3.

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THERE HAVE BEEN FOUR WINTERS in the recorded history of the state with mean temperatures (November-March) under 10 degrees above zero. Those were the winters of 1892-93, 1896-97, 1898-99 and 1936-37. Popularly, however, our midwinters are classified by what may be called midwinter temperatures, say from mid-December to mid-February. Last winter, for instance, is conceded to have been unusually mild, but the mildness of the midwinter weeks was offset in some measure by the chill of the fall and spring months.

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DR. GILLETTE'S GRAPHS SHOW AN interesting correspondence between temperature and precipitation. Yearly mean temperatures in North Dakota appear to have increased steadily, and rather uniformly from the beginning up to 1936, the last year for which the graphs were completed. During the same period there was a general decrease of precipitation, not so regular, but fairly marked. If the graphs were continued through 1942 there would be a sharp upward curve, as that year was one of heavy precipitation.

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IN SUCH CASES ONE NATURALLY looks for evidences of cause and effect. Did our gradually rising annual temperature tend to make the weather dry, or was drier weather the result of higher temperature? When the two facts of temperature and precipitation are placed side by side with no other data it is impossible to tell which was responsible for the other or if either was responsible. We know, however, that rain and snow come from clouds and that when the sky is overcast the sun is obscured. Hence in a rainy season there will be more cloudy weather and fewer days of burning heat than in a dry season.

ONE OF DR. GILLETTE'S GRAPHS is intended to show the relation of precipitation to percentage of population on relief. From the record the conclusion is reached that as precipitation becomes less the amount of relief becomes greater. The graph is based on successive tiers of counties from east to west and it is shown that as precipitation diminished, tier by tier, toward the west, relief increased correspondingly.

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ONE MIGHT STATE THE CONCLUSION in other terms, to the effect that in an agricultural state poor crops tend to increase the relief load, something that is fairly obvious. Crops are dependent in large measure on rainfall, especially on rainfall during the growing season. Rainfall in the eastern part of the state is usually sufficient, with something to spare. In the western counties there is a narrower margin of safety. When precipitation is below that margin crops suffer, family income is curtailed and there is greater need for relief.

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THERE ARE, HOWEVER, OTHER factors to be considered than temperature and precipitation. Whatever the temperature and precipitation of the summer of 1935 may have been, they were sufficient to produce a big crop, and a big crop was actually produced, so far as weather was concerned. But in the critical days before harvest rust ruined more than 75 per cent of the wheat crop and cut the state's income correspondingly. Naturally this increased the need for relief notwithstanding the favorable weather conditions.

PERHAPS SOME HISTORIAN OF A later day, not careful to get all the facts of the subject about which he writes, may find evidence in a case recently tried in London of the barbarous practices to which those benighted people away back in the Twentieth century were addicted. A man went into court to get an order prohibiting another from sawing a woman in two, and after hearing the evidence the judge refused to issue the order, holding that the defendant had a perfect right to use his saw in that manner if he wished to do so.

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THE SUIT WAS STARTED BY A MAGICIAN who told the court that a rival advertised as a part of his entertainment the trick of sawing a woman in two, and that he, the originator and owner of that illusion, would have his own performance damaged by the contemplated act of his rival. The defendant said that the trick had been the common property of magicians for generations. The judge seemed to have some familiarity with magic himself, for he said he had seen the same trick performed, but in his time they did it with a sword instead of a saw, and when offered a book in which an explanation of the trick was given he brushed it aside with the remark that he had read it. The ruling was in substance that anyone who wishes to saw a woman in two, in a strictly illusory manner, is at liberty to do so. There are people whom one would wish to see sawn in two in actual fact, but that's another story.

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THERE WAS A PARTIAL ECLIPSE of the moon early Sunday morning, but in this country it was visible only along the eastern seaboard. There is an old superstition that the time at which an eclipse of the moon occurs has something to do with the weather. Here in the west we didn't have an eclipse, but the weather seems to be performing about as usual.

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A LEAFLET DESCRIBING THE PERSONNEL of the woodwind quartet of the Chicago symphony orchestra has the following paragraph about a former Grand Forks boy, now a member of the quartet:

"Robert Mayer came to Chicago in 1930 to take up his present position of oboe and English horn player in the Chicago Symphony. He started his career in Grand Forks, North Dakota. During his school days he traveled each week to Minneapolis to study with Loue Doucet the art of oboe playing. Later he con-

tinued his studies with Alexandre Duvoir, first oboist of the Minneapolis symphony. While in high school he won first place in the state contest as oboe soloist. He then went on tour with Sousa's band. After several seasons he was called to Minneapolis to join the Symphony as oboe and English horn player."

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ROBERT'S FATHER WAS A WELL known conductor on the Great Northern, with headquarters in Grand Forks. My impression was that Robert spent his week-ends in Duluth studying, but he may have done that and also gone to Minneapolis later.

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THE ORDER PROHIBITING THE slicing of bread by bakers is reported to have worked severe hardship on many young housewives whom the order caught without bread knives. I wonder if any of them thought to try a butcher knife. Further, in the difficult and dangerous task of cutting bread by hand, how was one to get the slices the right thickness, and the same thickness, top and bottom? This difficulty was overcome in part by the bakers, who obligingly baked creases around the loaves to show just where to cut. Still, the job remains a strenuous one, but we must all do our bit for our country.

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IN THOSE DIM AND DISTANT DAYS when bread was not only cut, but actually baked in the home kitchen, I read some writer's explanation of why the young bride in her new home so often found it impossible to make the kind of bread that her mother used to make. The girl, said the writer, might have been thoroughly trained at home in all the culinary arts and might have been as proficient as her mother on the home ground. But in the newly-built home to which she moved after marriage, bread and cake and pies just wouldn't perform properly. The explanation given was that the air in the new kitchen didn't contain the bacteria that had permeated the air in the old home kitchen, and not until that deficiency had been corrected by use would the bride's baking turn out just right. Perhaps that explanation was intended as an alibi for somebody, but that's the way it was given. I'm not vouching for it.

IN A REVIEW OF A RECENTLY published biography of Jules Verne, the reviewer says that the famous author had one of his characters travel through the air in a heavier-than-air machine. I thought I had read all the Jules Verne stories. I wonder if I missed one. The reviewer's reference can scarcely be to the projectile used in the journey to the moon, which was in no sense a flying machine, and it wouldn't fit Captain Nemo's submarine, the Nautilus. And the craft used in "Five Weeks in a Balloon" was lighter than air. Perhaps the reviewer slipped.

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I HAVE OFTEN WONDERED ABOUT one passage in the story of the journey to the moon, which I haven't read since I was a boy. The great projectile containing the inventor and his friend was discharged perpendicularly from an enormous cannon imbedded in the earth somewhere in Florida and it was driven by the discharge of tons of gun cotton. All possible means were taken by providing springs, cushions, etc., to protect the shell and its passengers from the shock of the discharge, but, greatly to the surprise of the passengers, there was no shock. Verne was meticulous in working out the details of his plots and he had a plausible explanation for the most improbable things. But he offered no explanation why a shell could be discharged from a gun at a velocity of many miles per second without the inmates feeling a shock. He had to get the men off on their journey, and perhaps he could think of no reason for absence of shock, so just let it go at that. Anyway, it was a fine yarn. I'd read it again if I had a copy.

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THEY ARE HAVING ALL KINDS OF trouble with tin cans in New York. Collections are so far in excess of the capacity of the processing plant, or plants, over in New Jersey, that mountains of cans are being piled up in the city. Housewives have been urged time and again to wash cans before flattening them, but Mayor LaGuardia had what he thought was a better idea and he proclaimed that it would be all right to send unwashed cans. As a result 75 per cent of the collected cans are unwashed. Now thousands of tons of them are piled up and the health authorities wonder what's going to happen when those dirty cans are

filled with vermin, as they surely will be when warm weather comes.

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A WISCONSIN PAPER HAS AN interesting description of the manner in which war emergency has resulted in the utilization of the familiar cat tail. A plant at Ashippun is processing cat tails for the production of a fluffy material which is used as a substitute for kapok in life preservers, upholstery, coat linings, and for a multitude of other purposes where soft, light, fleecy material is needed. Kapok, formerly used in large quantities for such purposes, has come from Java, but because of the Japanese occupation, none can be obtained from that source. Cat tail fluff is said to answer most purposes quite as well.

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CAT TAILS ARE ABUNDANT IN marshy districts almost everywhere. In marshes within a few miles of the Ashippun plant, the heads are gathered by farmers who have been receiving \$2 per thousand for them and making \$10 to \$16 a day. The heads are run through machines which remove seeds and foreign material, and the fluff, called typha, is blown into a large room, collected and baled. The fibers are thinly coated with wax, making them almost waterproof, and each contains many tiny cells. In a test to determine buoyancy and water resistance 20 ounces of typha sustained a weight of 18 pounds in water for more than a week with no appreciable settling.

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FROM THE STANDPOINT OF PRODUCTION one advantage of the utilization of cat tails is that great areas of marsh land, hitherto considered valueless, can be made highly productive. A further desirable feature is that the spikes are gathered in the late fall, winter and early spring months when most outdoor farm work is at a standstill.

EVERYONE ADMIRES THE PAT-ience, courage and determination with which the Chinese have remained steadfast through five long years of a war in which they had to meet almost with bare hands a powerful enemy armed with all the latest instruments of destruction. Everyone applauds the self sacrifice and determination of the Russians and the military skill of their leaders in stopping the forward march of great armies held by many to be invincible and in throwing back those armies mile after mile, with staggering losses. And critics in many quarters have been asking what the United States and Great Britain have been doing while the Chinese and the Russians were performing these wonders. Why have we not invaded Japan, and why have not the British, or we and the British together, invaded Germany?

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CHINA DID NOT HAVE BEFORE her the formidable task of invading Japan, although Japan is right next door, nor did Russia have to deal with the problem of invading Germany, although there are neither seas no mountains to obstruct such invasion. Both Chinese and Russians are fighting on their own soil, resting invaders who have harried their people from town to town and from village to village, invaders who have destroyed whatever they touched, who have butchered women and children in cold blood, and every foot of whose further progress meant further outrages. They are fighting on their own ground in defense of their own homes, their own possessions, their own lives. They had not to seek the enemy in order to fight him and there were no barricades to prevent their reaching him. He was already there, a monster who threatened their very existence and who must be resisted with all their power if he were not to destroy them.

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THERE IS NO PARALLEL BETWEEN the situation of Russia and China and that of the United States and Britain. Great Britain did land an army on the continent, and was prepared to keep it there until it reached Berlin. But France collapsed like a crushed egg and left the British army cut off and in a situation from which it seemed impossible that it could be extricated. It was extricated, by

means little short of miraculous, but it returned, stripped of arms and compelled to be equipped afresh.

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THE UNITED STATES WAS STRUCK by an enemy who professed friendship. Its Pacific fleet was crippled, and before the nation could even partially recover from the foul blow, Japan had gained possession of bases commanding all the approaches to her own territory and which served as springboards for further conquest. Between the United States and Japan lies the width of the world's greatest ocean and a series of island outposts which provide shelter for her shipping and bases for her planes. Some day the United States will invade Japan, but bloody battles must be fought before that is possible.

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IN THE EUROPEAN THEATRE GER-many is protected by a ring of fortifications reaching from North cape to the Dardanelles, and before an American or a British soldier can set foot on German soil, or on any part of the European continent, those fortifications must be breached and a powerful defending army driven back. Chinese and Russians are fighting valiantly on their own soil. British and Americans can reach Germany and Japan only by fighting their way through the greatest obstacles that the enemy can raise.

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EVENTS IN AFRICA MAY CARRY some suggestion to the minds of those who have talked glibly of invading Germany or Japan as if such a task would resemble a picnic excursion. We landed an army in Africa and met scarcely any opposition. Almost without interference we occupied Morocco and Algiers, but in one little corner of Tunisia an enemy disputed our progress. After weeks of preparation and two weeks of fighting the enemy has not been dislodged. On the contrary, he drove us back, and while we have regained some of the lost ground, until the past day or two the Germans still held most of what they had gained. Thus far the fighting in Tunisia has been on a scale, as modern armies go, and we expect the Germans to be driven out, but experience thus far is a mild reminder of what a real European invasion would mean.